BENGALURU, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 24 | Min 21 | Humidity 80% Showers Sensex 80,664 | Nifty 24,586 | Gold 73,311 | Silver 92,549 | Dollar 83.62 | Euro 90.21 | GBP 108.50

HIGH FEVER

Over 300 dengue cases in city accounting for 83.45% of state's cases on Monday

PAGE 5

ROOPAVATHI'S TRIP

Authorities say all care taken in shifting elephant to Hyderabad, but activists not convinced

PAGE 6

Drop in amount of suspended particles due to rain has also had a wonderful effect on city's air quality — 8 of 11 monitoring stations record numbers that can have us breathe easy

AIR FORCE ONE

Take it with pinch of salt, strengthen monitoring mechanism, say researchers

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's air quality appears to have improved over the last couple of years. In June, as many as eight out of the 11 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) across the city recorded an average monthly AQI value of less than 51, which implies the air quality was good.

Stations in Hebbal, at NIMHANS, and in Kasturinagar recorded all 30 'good' air quality days, followed by 29 days of good AQI in Anekal, 28 days in Jayanagar, 26 in Saneguruvanahalli and 25 good AQI days in the area around Mysore Road.

PAGE 3: B'luru chills out

Experts say this improvement is due to climatic and weather factors. There is a drop in the amount of suspended particles, mainly PM 10 and PM 2.5 from the atmosphere due to rain.

"Bengaluru witnessed above-average rainfall during June. It is the rain god that is clearing pollution by removing suspended particles such as PM 2.5 and PM 10 from the atmosphere," said a city-based expert. They opine that Bengaluru also enjoys much better AQI than other Indian megacities due to its geographical location. High altitude creates faster surface winds that disperse pollutants. However, many say there is a need to shed the misconception that Bengaluru's air quality is safe.

> "KSPCB must look at expanding the monitoring station network to obtain the real picture of air pollution in Bengaluru. Citizens need to be made aware regarding their role in mitigating pollution
>
> Researcher

"There is an immediate need

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Brake on bike taxis?

With RTOs seizing bike taxis, association goes to transport commissioner over HC order violation

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the backdrop of regional transport offices (RTOs) seizing bike taxis in the first week of July, the bike taxi association has approached the Transport Commissioner for stringent action for violation of High Court orders.

Aggravated by the Transport Department's decision to seize bike taxis, the association took their grievance to the Commissioner. According to the association, the action taken by the department has violated the HC orders that prevent 'coercive action' against bike taxis.

On July 5, the Transport Department issued a crackdown on bike taxis operating in the city stating the rollback of the Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021 and the illegality of its operations.

In its letter to the Transport Commissioner, the association noted that on July 4, several auto unions staged a protest in front of the Commissioner's office in Shanthinagar. Based on their demands, the department took action against bike taxis operating in Bengaluru. Auto unions in the city have been contending that bike taxi operations are direct competition and threaten their livelihood.

A copy of the letter was issued to the Home Department of Karnataka as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Lifestyle exhibit

The exclusive sale of handloom, handicraft, jewellery, sarees and dress materials, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and gifts is underway at the 'Grand Rajasthani Exhibition.' The exhibition is all about the use of traditional handloom skills to create contemporary lifestyle products. It brings together rural artisans from the eastern part of India, featuring vast collections of cotton and silk handlooms and handicrafts, Orissa tie and dye, dress materials, West Bengal cotton sarees, home decor and gift items, and many more.
Where: VV Convention Hall, Babusapalya
When: July 16 to 30, 10 am to 9 pm

02 Narrative poems

Spend an insightful evening listening to the poems from Dr Ishan Capoor's debut poetry book, 'Inhale: Exhale From the Quarters of Quarantine' which is based on his pandemic experiences as a frontliner at 'Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace.' Dr Capoor is a practicing pulmonologist at Narayana Health, Bengaluru. He writes poems centred around the themes of hope, healing, and the human spirit. He enjoys photography, travelling, and playing the keyboard in his free time.

Where: Urban Solace, Ulsoor
When: July 16, 7.30 pm to 9 pm

03 Navigating loneliness

Watch 'Petitpas and Me,' a non-verbal play ideal for children aged 5 to 7 years. Directed by Teresa Rotemberg and Chine Curchod, it tells the story of a child alone in his room, wondering if he'd have someone to play with. Then something stirs. Someone enters the room: Petitpas, and the loneliness suddenly turns into a crazy duet between Petitpas and the dancer.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: July 16, 7.30 pm

KCET questions call: High Court refuses to interfere

State govt panel had taken decision to expunge 50 out-of-syllabus questions from exams; bench asks KEA not to make such mistakes

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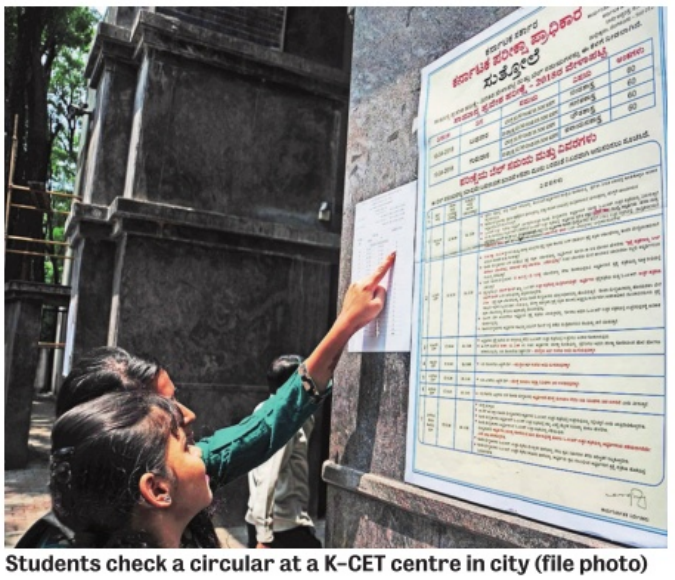
The Karnataka High Court has refused to intervene and look into the into the validity of the state government's decision to set up a committee to examine 'out of syllabus' questions asked in the Karnataka CET 2024 exams which were held in April.

The committee had found that around 50 questions were out of syllabus and hence, were decided to be excluded. While disposing off a petition filed by an 18-year-old Thanmay U who argued the case in person, a single judge bench of Justice S Suni Dutt Yadav told the state government as well as the Karnataka Examination Authority to not repeat such mistakes in the future.

Thanmay argued that if he was aware that such questions would be expunged, he would have devoted his time in answering other questions, rather than spending time on the questions which have been expunged. Noting that 50 out of 240 questions in four subjects have been expunged, it was argued that the consequence has been substantial enough to have prejudiced many of the candidates, including the petitioner who have spent time in answering those 50 questions.



Students check a circular at a K-CET centre in city (file photo)

Vikram Huilgol, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the state pointed out that the government has set up a committee to examine 'out of syllabus' questions in CET 2024 and the committee has come up with a clear finding that the questions that have been excluded are questions outside the syllabus. It was submitted that the syllabus was already made known to the students and accordingly, the action of exclusion of questions was resorted to.

After hearing both sides, the court noted that it was clear that the action was taken by the state after considering the complaints made by parents as well as students. "If that were to be so, asking of questions outside the syllabus which was in the public domain is perfectly justifiable," the court said.

"However, what needs to be taken note of and also asserted by the KEA as well as the State, is that such questions outside the syllabus ought not to have been asked at the first instance at all.

> **"What needs to be asserted by the KEA and the State, is that such questions outside the syllabus ought not to have been asked at the first instance at all**
> –High Court bench

Needless to state the apprehension of the petitioner as also of other students that, such exclusion of questions has caused prejudice insofar as the candidates would have adjusted the time depending on the questions that they are in a better position to answer, is an aspect that is to be taken note of appropriately in order to avoid such situations in future," the court added.

Further, the Court said that it cannot enter into the aspect of validity of decision taken by the government based on the applicable syllabus which is the decision of the experts.

Over three lakh students appeared for the CET exams this year. Thanmay in his petition had sought the court to direct the KEA to conduct counselling for engineering seats based on the rankings provided when all the questions were considered.

Young & restless: Overthinking is major concern

As per survey, youngsters are also struggling with symptoms of anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and emotional instability, affecting their overall interactions and well-being

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A recent survey of over 2,800 students in Bangalore has unveiled significant mental health challenges affecting their daily lives. The findings point to urgent issues that need immediate attention to support the well-being of young individuals in the city.

One of the major concerns identified is excessive worrying, with 37% of students reporting daily struggles with overthinking. This constant anxiety can detract from their ability to focus on studies and essential activities.

Additionally, 32% of students revealed a lack of interest and pleasure in daily activities. This disinterest is often a sign of underlying mental health issues such as depression and can lead to social withdrawal, decreased academic engagement, and a decline in overall well-being.

Addressing school mental wellbeing is an urgent necessity, say experts

Low self-esteem is another critical issue, with 38% of students experiencing negative self-perception. Feelings of worthlessness associated with low self-esteem can lead to more severe mental health problems if not addressed promptly.

Emotional instability is also prevalent with 36% of respondents admitting to feeling easily annoyed and irritable. This can strain relationships with peers, teachers, and family members, creating a stressful environment at home and school.

Most alarmingly, 46% of students reported sleep disturbances, including difficulty falling asleep or sleeping excessively. Adequate sleep is crucial for mental and physical health, and disruptions can severely impact daily functioning, cognitive abilities, and emotional stability.

The survey was conducted by PeakMind, a digital counseling and therapy portal dedicated to assisting students. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive mental health support and interventions in schools and communities.

Dr Shilpi Saraswat, Clinical Psychologist at Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru said, "Addressing school mental wellbeing is an urgent necessity. We need mandatory in-house trained psychologists for schools and centers to identify and manage students' difficulties promptly. Additionally, parent management training should be implemented to help parents find a balance between over-parenting and under-parenting. It's also critical to develop and adhere to school mental health policies, reduce stigma around seeking mental health help, and provide timely training for teachers to better understand their students. Forming peer support programs and teacher-parent groups can further enhance the support system within schools."

Record low temperatures and light rain mark unusual weather for mid-July, meteorologists predict continued cloudy skies and moderate showers

Bengaluru, you do you

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Commuters walk past under umbrellas amid heavy monsoon rains in Bengaluru on Monday

Bengaluru experienced a classic case of 'Monday blues' as temperatures dropped significantly, accompanied by light rain that persisted throughout most of the day. The city recorded one of its lowest daytime temperatures for this time of year, with many areas seeing around 25 degrees Celsius. According to meteorologists, the previous day had already set a record with a low of 26.1 degrees Celsius.

Namma Karnataka Weather update on X platform states that June, July, and August are the core monsoon months. During this period, rainfall in Bengaluru is greatly influenced by wind speeds at 800 hectopascals (hPa), approximately two kilometres above the surface.

The Break Phase, characterised by wind speeds of 0 to 12 knots, benefits Southern Interior Karnataka (SIK) with thunderstorm rains but is unfavourable for coastal regions (Karavali) and the Malnad region, making it undesirable during the core monsoon season.

The Mild Phase, with wind speeds of 13 to 20 knots, does not significantly benefit any region. Last August, Bengaluru experienced this phase for a considerable period, leading to less effective rainfall distribution. In contrast, the Active Phase, with wind speeds of 21 to 28 knots, benefits coastal areas and is somewhat beneficial for Malnad.

"This phase requires a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal to be activated, with steering winds at 800 hPa zipping across speeds over 40 knots, marking the peak monsoon conditions

While Bengaluru and Northern Karnataka (NK) receive some rain during July and August, this phase is not particularly useful in June. The very active phase, characterised by wind speeds of 29 knots and above, is the most favourable phase for all regions including Bengaluru, SIK, coastal areas, NK, and Malnad.

The increased wind speed allows moisture to penetrate deep into Karnataka, resulting in heavy rains, particularly in Malnad where rainfall can exceed 200 mm.

This phase typically requires a low-pressure area in the Bay of Bengal to be activated, with steering winds at 800 hPa zipping across at speeds over 40 knots, marking the peak monsoon conditions.

Meanwhile, N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD, said, "The offshore trough at mean sea level along the South Gujarat-north Kerala coasts persists. A shear zone runs roughly along 20°N between 3.1 & 7.6 km above mean sea level tilting southwards with height.

Strong wind convergence along Coastal Karnataka and adjacent Western Ghats districts.

As a result, scattered heavy to very heavy with isolated extremely heavy rain and sustained wind speeds reaching (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur over Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi districts, while scattered heavy to very heavy with isolated extremely heavy rain and sustained wind speeds reaching (40-50 kmph) are very likely to occur over Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru districts.

Isolated heavy rain and sustained wind speeds reaching (40-50 kmph) are very likely to occur over Belagavi, Kodagu, Mysuru, and Hassan districts. Bengaluru will have a cloudy sky with chances of light to moderate rain very likely.

The city will experience sustained wind speeds reaching (30-40 kmph) with maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 25 and 20 degrees Celsius, respectively."

Fatal crash on NICE Road

Three people lost their lives in a tragic accident near the Bannerghatta toll gate on NICE Road in Bengaluru on Monday. The collision occurred around 3 pm when a Scorpio, travelling towards Kanakapura Road from Electronic City, collided head-on with a KIA car coming from Mysore Road.

The crash, attributed to heavy fog reducing visibility, resulted in severe damage to both vehicles. Videos of the scene shared on social media showed curious bystanders recording the aftermath and the wreckage. The three passengers in the Scorpio died instantly, while the occupants of the KIA sustained injuries and were promptly taken to a hospital for treatment.

Efforts are currently underway to clear the road and restore normal traffic flow.

Actor Rakshit Shetty faces copyright controversy

Kannada actor Rakshit Shetty faces legal trouble as a copyright case has been filed against him for allegedly using songs from MRT Music in his film Bachelor Party without authorization. The complaint, lodged by Naveen Kumar, a partner at MRT Music, claims that Shetty and his production house, Paramvah Studios, used tracks from the movies Nyaya Ellide and Gaalimaathu without proper permissions.

Bachelor Party, which premiered on Amazon Prime in March 2024, has sparked this controversy. Despite discussions between Shetty and MRT Music in January 2024 regarding the rights to these songs, no agreement was reached.

The Bengaluru Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) and are actively investigating the case. Officials have issued a notice to Shetty, requesting his response to the allegations.

Wilson Garden resident alleges armed threat

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Complaint against armed threat delayed; City Crime Branch accused of bias

If the grievance and fear of Ajmal Ahmed of Wilson Garden are anything to go by, it seems that having friends or relatives in the City Crime Branch is a great advantage for accused persons with muscle power and those possessing licensed firearms.

It all began with Ajmal Ahmed from Wilson Garden having differences with Anjum over the quality of material supplied by the latter. The differences reached such a level that Ajmal Ahmed was not even able to have tea at the tea stall near Shanti Nagar Bus Station on June 19 due to threats and the offensive language used by Anjum.

Ajmal Ahmed, unable to bear the threats and rude behaviour of Anjum, decided to lodge a complaint with Wilson Garden Police, but there was a delay in registering the complaint for reasons best known to the authorities concerned.

He also approached the Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) seeking punishment for Anjum. "I am very happy with the positive response from the Additional Commissioner of Police, who directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police to look into the matter.

The DCP has directed a police inspector to investigate. My joy knew no bounds when the police inspector assured me that they would not only punish Anjum but also seize the licensed firearm of Irshad, Anjum's brother, as it was being misused to threaten people by Anjum. He advised me not to withdraw the complaint against the accused at any cost," said Ajmal Ahmed.

However, Ajmal Ahmed's joy was short-lived with the entry of a police inspector from the City Crime Branch who is allegedly closer to the accused. "I was shocked when the same police inspector, who insisted I not withdraw the complaint against the accused, told me that Wilson Garden police would probe the case.

Now, I have decided to approach the Police Commissioner seeking protection, as there is a threat to my life from Anjum, who is misusing the licensed firearm belonging to his brother Irshad to threaten people like me," said Ajmal Ahmed.

Finally, Wilson Garden Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) on July 8 under Sections 34, 504, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

White-topping spree aims for pothole-free Bengaluru

Aiming to ease traffic congestion, BBMP begins white-topping of around 200 km of roads

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'White-topping is done to ensure that the Bengaluru roads are pothole-free and last about 25 years'

Despite numerous criticisms, the new projects for white-topping roads in Bengaluru were launched on Monday. The government is investing Rs 1,800 crore to white-top 157 km of roads in the city, said Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar.

On the occasion of inaugurating the white-topping of a 19.67-km stretch of roads in Chamarajpet, Gandhinagar, Malleshwara, and Mahalakshmipuram at a cost of Rs 200 crore, DKS said, "The roads in Bengaluru are prone to potholes. Hence, we will white-top roads under the Sugama Sanchara Bengaluru and Brand Bengaluru initiatives. This is done to ensure that the roads are pothole-free and last about 25 years. We will commence white topping works in three to four wards every day, with the aim of completing the work within the specified deadline. Our goal is to white-top about 200 km of roads in Bengaluru to ease traffic jams. We are committed to ensuring the best quality work."

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials said that under the 'Brand Bengaluru's-Sugama Sanchara Bengaluru (Easy Mobility Bengaluru)' initiative, a collaboration between the government of Karnataka and the BBMP, a series of development projects are underway in Bengaluru's western zone. These projects focus on improving road infrastructure and pedestrian paths in the Mahalakshmipuram, Malleswaram, Gandhinagar, and Chamrajpet assembly constituencies.

In the Mahalakshmipuram Assembly Constituency, development includes topping and pedestrian paths on three key roads. The

> **We will commence white-topping work in three to four wards every day**
> – Deputy CM DK Shivakumar

Mahalakshmipuram Main Road, spanning 0.65 km from 12th Cross to Shakti Ganapati Temple, and the 10th Cross Road in Rajajinagar, extending 0.49 km from Chord Road to Dr Rajkumar Road, will be upgraded. Additionally, the Dr Rajkumar Main Road, covering one km from Navarang Theatre Junction to Rani Abbakka Circle, is part of the project. With an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore (Package No. 8), this project is executed by Appaji Builders Pvt Ltd, Vijayapura. BBMP claims that this will enhance connectivity to Tumkur Road and other critical areas.

Meanwhile, in Malleswaram Assembly Constituency, two road improvement projects are underway. The first involves the white topping and pedestrian path development on Malleswaram 8th Main Road, extending 0.87 km from 18th Cross to Chitra Nagar Circle, and Jeevaraj Alva Road, covering 1.70 km from 10th Main Road, Sadashiva Nagar, to Vinayaka Nagar. A separate segment of Malleswaram 8th Main Road, spanning 0.43 km, will also be upgraded. With the combined project cost of Rs 30 crore, contractors Ocean Constructions India Private Limited and JMC Constructions (P) Limited will be executing the project. The second project includes white topping on four roads with a cost of Rs 50 crore (Package No. 3): Loop Road, Link Road, Platform Road, and Subedar Chatram Road, totaling 3.84 km. This project aims to improve access to prominent destinations like Sankey Lake and Vyalikaval.

Furthermore, in the Chamrajpet Assembly Constituency, the focus is on nine roads totaling 7.64 km, with an estimated cost of Rs 102 crore, which will be under JMC Constructions (P) Limited. Key roads include Sultan Road, Chamrajpet 3rd Main Road, Pampa Mahakavi Road, Bull Temple Road, Chamrajpet 5th Main Road, Chamrajpet 7th Main Road, and Chamrajpet 2nd Main Road. This will improve connectivity to areas such as Mysore Road and other significant localities, added the BBMP officials.

Slippery roads are crying for quick attention

'Two-wheeler riders find it challenging to navigate this stretch in Horamavu'

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Residents and commuters are now expressing growing frustration over the dangerous road conditions near the Anjaneya Temple, leading towards the Brindavan Avenue Layout beside Horamavu Lake. The stretch, which has been in a state of disrepair for over a year, has seen numerous accidents and poses a significant risk, especially to two-wheeler riders.

For more than a year, the stretch of road has been hazardous, with potholes, accumulated water, and a slippery surface making it difficult for vehicles to navigate their way and pass through safely. Despite numerous complaints to local authorities, no substantial action has been taken to address the issue, alleged the residents.

The recent rains have exacerbated the problem, with waterlogging adding to the existing hazards. Many residents have reached out to local engineers and officials, but their pleas have gone unanswered. "The authorities need to wake up and take this seriously. We've raised our concerns multiple times, and nothing has changed. The road needs to be fixed immediately before something tragic happens," said a resident of the area.

The lack of proper drainage is a major contributing factor to the poor condition of the road. With no way for rainwater to escape, it accumulates, leading to slippery and dangerous conditions, the residents explain. On a similar note, another resident said, "There is no proper path for rainwater to drain, which makes the road extremely slippery. Just the other day, there was another accident because of this. It's only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt."

Two-wheeler riders, in particular, find it challenging to navigate the stretch, increasing the risk of accidents, they added. "Every day, I'm worried about commuting through this stretch. It's incredibly stressful knowing that at any moment of time, I could have an accident because the road is so slippery," said another resident.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Main road pickup
Malleshwaram

Despite having four bus shelters in the designated bus bay at the Malleswaram Circle Bus Stop, buses stop directly on the main road, causing congestion. This issue persists even though it happens right in front of the Malleswaram Police Station.

Is this a urinal?
Vijayanagar

The footpath on 17th Cross, Vijayanagar, near the BBMP office, has turned into an open urinal, posing serious health hazards. Despite numerous complaints, the issue remains unaddressed.

Remove the trash
NGEF Layout

Trash is scattered everywhere in the NGEF layout, especially next to the Jalvayu Towers wall. The problem has been reported, but no action has been taken.

Scrap NTA, curb coaching menace: Students' group

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Campaign across colleges in city takes issue to governor to bring it to notice of Education Minister

A students' organisation, Collective, submitted a petition on Monday at the Raj Bhavan, addressed to the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan through the Governor of Karnataka, urging him to disband the National Testing Agency (NTA). Over the past three weeks, the organisation has campaigned across various colleges in the city, with nearly 600 students joining the signature petition.

"Many of us join college with the hope that we will learn something new, that we will be equipped with the skills we need to face the world and its various challenges. Instead, we all find ourselves reduced to mindless robots memorising KBC trivia, swept up in exam patterns, past papers, MCQ hacks, YouTube videos, and coaching classes – lakhs of us fighting each other for a sad handful of seats... Meanwhile, the private coaching industry is a thriving business! An industry that exploits the aspirations of students to enter into the educational institutions and field of their choice," the petition read.

Further, it said that in the name of privatisation, rationalisation and efficiency, mass school closures and mergers take place. "In the past decade, we have seen a 10% reduction in government run primary schools while private schools went up by 32%. Over 3,400 schools were merged in Karnataka in 2018, leading to massive drop-outs due to difficulties with transport and distance," it said.

The students have urged the NTA to be scrapped, and replaced with a government body and improved infrastructure. They have also demanded the government introduce new and strict regulation of fees charged by private coaching centres that are at present profiteering off the aspirations of students and their families.

Dengue: Monday bites different

Over 300 cases in city accounting for 83.45% of state's cases; 10% of year's total cases

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BBMP health officials, ASHA workers visit houses to educate residents about dengue control recently

It was a 'stinging' Monday in the city as a record 363 individuals tested positive for dengue. Karnataka reported 435 dengue cases, with Bengaluru alone accounting for 83.45% of the cases for the day. In Bengaluru, 4,325 serum samples were tested for dengue, and 363 tested positive meaning a test positivity rate of 8.39%.

Out of the 363 positive cases in Bengaluru, around 35 were hospitalised, which represents about 9.64% of the cases. For the year so far, Bengaluru has reported a total of 3,487 dengue cases. Given the 363 cases reported on Monday, this means that approximately 10.41% of the year's total cases were reported on Monday.

Reacting to the rising dengue cases, Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "There is no specific treatment for dengue fever; instead, treatment is administered based on the symptoms presented. Approximately 85-90% of individuals recover from dengue fever naturally, while only 10-15% require hospitalisation due to the severity of the disease. Even in hospital settings, treatment focuses on symptom management, with only about 1% of patients developing severe symptoms. According to the National Centre for Vector Borne Disease Control and the National Guidelines for Management of Dengue Fever 2023, treatment is provided in both government and private hospitals. To manage dengue fever cases effectively, 5-8 beds have been reserved in taluk and district hospitals. The health and family welfare department offers complete free treatment facilities, including ICU services, to all patients, whether they hold BPL or APL cards. From January 1, 2024, to date, seven people have died due to dengue fever in the state."

During a reply in the Assembly on Monday, Rao elaborated on the measures taken. "The Karnataka Public Health Act has declared dengue fever a notifiable disease, mandating all private health institutions to report cases to the health department. With monsoon heightening the risk of transmission, district health officers and vector-borne disease control officers have been instructed to implement necessary preventive measures. Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all districts, stressing prevention and control efforts such as fogging and spraying insecticides to prevent mosquito breeding."

Guidelines have been disseminated across districts to prevent and control dengue, including initiatives like fogging and spraying insecticides. On June 7, an interdepartmental meeting led by the Additional Chief Secretary emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to tackle dengue. The Principal Secretary reinforced this during a virtual meeting on June 25, 2024, urging health officers to take decisive actions. "The state government has implemented several strategies to manage dengue fever, including declaring every Friday as "Larva Elimination Day" to eradicate mosquito larvae and conducting door-to-door surveys to detect cases. These surveys also serve to educate the public about dengue symptoms, mosquito breeding sites, and the importance of larva elimination. The establishment of a dengue war room ensures continuous monitoring and control of the situation, supported by Asha workers and health staff."

> **"State Public Health Act has declared dengue a notifiable disease, mandating reportage of cases to the health dept** –Dinesh Gundu Rao, minister

IN BRIEF

Bottoms-up: 6,283 drink driving cases this year

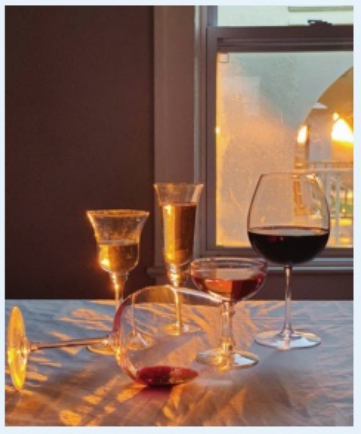
Drink driving cases have become common in Bengaluru, with 6,283 incidents reported in 2024. Recently, Bengaluru police found that school bus drivers were flouting traffic norms in the city. A total of 23 drivers tested positive for alcohol consumption on July 9 and are now facing legal action, according to a statement by the Bengaluru police. These surprise inspections of school vehicles were led by Joint Commissioner (Traffic) MN Anucheth.

"I believe that teenagers and college students are to blame for the increasing cases," said a citizen. "There are many clubs in Koramangala, and you can see young people stepping out of these clubs intoxicated and still driving."

Another resident commented, "You can't simply blame the police for not enforcing the law. The traffic police can't be everywhere to check who is driving after drinking."

Many citizens also expressed that people in the city, especially the youth, are not deterred by the surprise tests. "When they know they just have to pay a fine and get out of the situation, why would they care? Someone riding a bike worth Rs 3 lakh doesn't care about a Rs 500 fine."

Despite these challenges, the traffic police continue to conduct surprise drives and apprehend violators. —**Ahna Prakash**



Roopavathi's relocation roils animal activists

Animal activists condemn pachyderm transport, alleging negligence & court order violations

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If the objections of animal activists are anything to go by, it seems the controversy over the transport of the pachyderm Roopavathi from Davangere to Hyderabad refuses to die down. Though the forest officials have been leaving no stone unturned to ensure that all norms were followed before allowing Roopavathi to reach Hyderabad, animal activists continue to blame the authorities concerned for not taking care of the pachyderm's health and safety.

It is believed that arrangements were made to transport Roopavathi from Davangere to Hyderabad when Telangana Minister Konda Surekha held discussions with the Karnataka Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment. It is alleged that Minister Konda Surekha wanted the pachyderm for the Muharram Bibi ka Alam and Bonalu processions. The pachyderm belongs to Shri Shaila Mutt in Davangere.

It is said that all the medical tests were conducted at Davangere before the pachyderm left for Hyderabad. "We have conducted all the medical tests. We collected blood samples and sent them to a laboratory in Shivamogga. I found the pachyderm physically fit to travel to Hyderabad. A team of veterinary doctors also performed a medical checkup for the elephant at Bellary," said Dr Satish, a veterinary doctor in Davangere.

The laboratory report issued on June 24, 2024, stated that the pachyderm had an excess white blood cell (WBC) count at 19.09, against the normal range of 10.2 to 18.95. "A high white blood cell count may indicate that the pachyderm has one of the following infections: a bacterial or viral infection, or an inflammatory disease such as rheumatoid arthritis," said a veterinary doctor on the condition of anonymity.

He said that any veterinary doctor issuing a fitness and health certificate for the transport of an elephant has to check for infectious diseases in elephants, including tuberculosis, hemorrhagic septicemia, trypanosomiasis, foot and mouth disease, pox, and bacillary necrosis. "The entire process is nothing but an attempt to please politicians from Telangana and Karnataka at the cost of a hapless pachyderm that is suffering from arthritis," he said.

The medical report issued on July 12 by a team of veterinary doctors clearly stated that they do not have the expertise in wildlife and that further action may be taken after a detailed examination is conducted by expert wildlife veterinary doctors.

One of the eyes of Roopavathi

> **"I found the pachyderm physically fit to travel to Hyderabad. A team of veterinary doctors also performed a medical checkup for the elephant at Bellary**
>
> Dr Satish,
> a veterinary doctor in Davangere

Expressing concern over the forest authorities not following the norms, Arun Prasad, an animal activist, opined that the transport of the elephant to Hyderabad to participate in religious functions is against a court order. "The court had directed the authorities to formulate guidelines for prohibiting the use of elephants in any form of begging, performance, or procession, in consultation with all concerned. I believe that the authorities must obey the court order when making such decisions," Arun Prasad said.

Stating that making elephants participate in religious functions is illegal and inhuman, Joseph Hoover, an animal activist, said that he opposes using wild or captive elephants in religious functions. "People worship elephants. I do not know why the same people exploit elephants," said Joseph Hoover.

SC rejects DK Shivakumar's plea again

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's plea to quash the CBI's disproportionate assets case against him under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988.

A bench of justices, Bela M. Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma, observed that Shivakumar's plea was without merit. Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Shivakumar, submitted that the probe into the matter had begun without obtaining the sanction under Section 17A of the PC Act. Section 17A of the PC Act provides immunity to public servants from any inquiry under the graft law without prior approval from the appropriate authority. The provision was introduced by an amendment with effect from July 26, 2018. The top court gave a split verdict a few months ago on the issue arising out of Section 17A of the graft law.

The top court on Monday said that proceedings cannot be quashed based on a split verdict. The court remarked that the petitioner's grievances will be resolved when the larger bench decides the question of Section 17A. "How can your case be quashed based on a split judgment?" the court said, refusing to interfere with the case.

The court also noted that the present case is under the Prevention of Corruption Act and that the Income Tax authorities cannot prosecute under the PC Act. The CBI is probing a case against Shivakumar for allegedly possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. In 2017, the IT Department raided Shivakumar, leading to an investigation by the ED. The CBI later sought permission from the state government to file an FIR against him based on the findings of the ED probe. —ANI

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Hampi grapples with bear and leopard sightings

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Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is grappling with an unexpected challenge as a surge in wildlife sightings, including bears and leopards, has rattled tourists and locals alike. While the monsoon season has brought a welcome respite from the summer heat and an influx of visitors, the sudden appearance of these wild creatures has cast a shadow over the otherwise idyllic setting.

Just last week, two separate bear sightings sent shockwaves through the tourist community. One incident occurred near the iconic Vijaya Vitthala temple, captured on camera by startled visitors. The other sighting was reported on the Hampi-Kadurampur road, where a bear was seen wandering through fields and gardens, causing panic among farmers.

Although Hampi's coexistence with wildlife is not entirely unprecedented, the frequency and proximity of these sightings have escalated concerns. The historical town has previously faced similar challenges, such as the leopard sighting during the 2013-14 Hampi festival. Authorities are now working diligently to address the situation and ensure the safety of both tourists and residents.

Sources said that these animals, which had ventured into villages in search of food during the scorching summer months, are now returning

to their forest habitats. Unfortunately, this shift has led to growing tensions between humans and wildlife. Instances of bears damaging crops in villages like Bukkasagara have sparked fear among locals. The capture of a troublesome bear in Kamalapura by the forest department offers a temporary respite, but the underlying issue persists. The proximity of a bear sanctuary to Hampi is suspected to be a contributing factor to the frequent sightings. Areas like Hampi and Kamalapura have become hotspots for these encounters, with farmers increasingly hesitant to tend their fields. Moreover, the movement of leopards has also seen an uptick in other parts of the district, including Kudligi taluk, adding to the overall concern about human-wildlife conflict in the region.

The recent leopard sighting near Hemakuta in Hampi has heightened concerns among locals and tourists alike. The big cat, captured on camera perched on a hilltop, is not an isolated incident. Previous leopard sightings in the vicinity of Hampi and Kannada University, coupled with a recent bear encounter, indicate a growing wildlife presence in the area. The fact that the leopard was spotted in a populated area during the evening has further fuelled anxiety. While leopards have been previously documented in certain parts of Hampi, this latest incident has triggered a fresh wave of apprehension. The onset of summer and monsoon marks a critical period for bears, coinciding with their breeding season. Leopards, too, exhibit increased movement during monsoon. Their territorial marking behaviour, involving urine spraying on rocks and trees, is disrupted by the rain, prompting them to reassert their dominance, especially during the twilight hours when they are most active. This combination of factors contributes to the heightened risk of human-wildlife encounters during this time.

HEALTH TIP: Plant-based oils linked with lower heart disease risk, blood fat analysis confirms

Bananas contain fiber and many nutrients such as Vitamin B6 and C

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CHOPPER RIDE

Aerospace engineer explains technology and training that makes flying in helicopters safer than you think

Helicopters draw a lot of attention with their almost magical ability to hover, fly in any direction and operate without runways. They also help save many lives, often dramatically, with their extensive use in all-weather military missions, ambulance duties and search-and-rescue roles.

When things go wrong, dramatic images and news stories about helicopter accidents grab the public's attention. This is especially true when high-profile celebrities or government officials are involved.

However, modern rotorcraft are safe. Each year, the U.S. commercial helicopter industry flies about 3 million flight hours. There were 0.77 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours on average from 2018 to 2022. In comparison, general aviation, which refers to small fixed-wing aircraft and not jetliners, averaged 0.88 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours over the same period.

As an aeronautical engineer who specializes in rotorcraft and the director of a national vertical lift center of excellence, I have observed academic, government and industry efforts to improve helicopter safety. A lot of technology and training have gone into making helicopters safe.

Long road to safety

Rotary-wing aircraft were first developed over a century ago. The first that went into mass production was the autogiro, developed in 1923 by Juan de la Cierva in Spain. The pinwheel-like nature of the main lifting rotor avoided the dangers of stalling, which wrecked so many fixed-wing aircraft during that era. Stalling is when the angle of an airplane's wings relative to the airflow is too great, causing the plane to lose lift.

Within 15 years, the first true helicopters with powered rotors – capable of hovering, low-speed flight and safe descent in the event of engine failure – were in the air in both Europe and the United States. Large-scale military and commercial production began just a few years later during the World War II.

Today's helicopter operations are anchored on three main principles: comprehensive vehicle design, testing and manufacturing; well-trained flight crews; and thorough maintenance practices. Advanced technology plays a vital role in each of these pillars of helicopter safety.

Safety fundamentals

Helicopter safety begins with the fundamental capability of large-diameter rotors that can auto-rotate in the event of engine failure. With the engine off, the rotors spin freely, slowing the helicopter's descent and allowing parachute-like controlled landing. Reliable powertrains – engines, gear boxes and driveshafts – long-lived blades and low-vibration airframes have also paved the way for safer flights.

Additionally, advanced autopilot and computer-controlled or assisted flight controls, terrain-avoidance radar and rotor blade deicing systems that enable all-weather flight have become common on modern helicopters. Decades of basic and applied research conducted in university, government and industry laboratories has yielded many advanced technologies. Today's helicopters typically have radar- and lidar-based collision avoidance systems, comprehensive digital terrain mapping databases and adaptive controls that help the pilot feel differences depending on flight conditions and aircraft characteristics such as payload.

Rotorcraft do require specialized pilot training to master. Pilots often train on fixed-wing aircraft before transitioning to rotary-wing vehicles, much as you might learn to ride a bicycle before taking on a unicycle. Pilots spend many additional hours or even years of flight instruction to earn a helicopter license.

> **Today's helicopter operations are anchored on three main principles: comprehensive vehicle design, testing and manufacturing; well-trained flight crews; and thorough maintenance practices**

Rotorcraft inherently feature more moving parts than fixed-wing aircraft, which makes careful design of bearings, gearboxes, shock absorbers, lubrication systems and other mechanical components critical. As with pilots, helicopter mechanics need additional training hours and skill sets.

Indeed, for some complex military and rescue missions, mechanics fly along as integral members of the flight crew. These flight mechanics closely monitor critical systems using onboard temperature, vibration, noise and metal chip sensors, and can even troubleshoot and repair many mechanical, electrical and digital issues that arise.

Advanced sensors and computer software make maintaining helicopters quicker and more thorough. Additionally, advanced design and manufacturing methods for rugged composite materials and specialized flexible polymers have dramatically improved the durability of dynamic components such as blades and rotors.

Risks remain

Even with all the advanced design, training and technology in place, accidents happen. The vast majority involve a complex chain of events. Pilot or mechanic error, typically associated with unusual circumstances, is a primary cause of many crashes.

Bad weather often contributes. Many essential flight operations such as search and rescue, firefighting and military transport necessarily occur in sandy, snowy, smoky or stormy environments. These "edge of the envelope" conditions raise the risk factor, despite the best technology and training doctrines. Even the intense and realistic training exercises for these missions can be inherently more dangerous than standard flight.

Advanced technologies

New technologies continue to improve flight safety under these difficult conditions. These include more effective, reliable and lower power rotor blade deicing or anti-icing systems; improved weather forecasting models; and even onboard ice-cloud detection systems. Researchers are developing artificial intelligence-enabled expert systems that help pilots decide when and if it's safe to fly.

I expect advanced technologies to enable reliability and safety statistics to continue to improve, and operating costs to drop, as thousands of aerospace engineers around the world bring life-saving, time-saving and security-enhancing improvements to these remarkable vehicles.

—Edward C Smith, Penn State, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Stroke risks

Genetic factors
While stroke has emerged as one of the leading causes of death globally, the genetic factors of different ethnic groups and regional disparities in comorbidities play a critical role in influencing the burden of the disease, says a study conducted by RGCB here.

Comorbities
"The underlying genetic factors are very critical in determining and defining the regional variations in influencing stroke and its comorbidities, which, in turn, can define the burden of stroke," observes the study conducted by researcher Moinak Banerjee, who is associated with Neurobiology Division of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (BRIC-RGCB).

Vascular risk
The research, published in the prestigious biomedical publication eLife, demonstrated that metabolic risk in America and Europe and vascular risk in Asian and African regions are the major drivers for stroke risk, in a proof that stroke and its comorbid factors show strong regional disparities and ethnic and region-specific genetic factors. Comorbidities in stroke can amplify the risk of stroke and its outcome, according to an RGCB release, quoting the study.

Disease studied
The findings of the study, one of the largest ever was performed globally covering 204 countries.
A total of eleven diseases were studied, and these included overall stroke, its subtypes ischemic stroke (IS), intracranial haemorrhage (ICH), along with its comorbid factors like ischemic heart disease(IHD), diabetes type 1 & type 2, chronic kidney disease, high blood pressure, high body mass index(BMI), and high LDL cholesterol.

Leading cause
Stroke affected over 101 million people worldwide and caused over 6.55 million deaths in 2019, making it one of the leading causes of mortality. —PTI

Present tense at Assembly: Eye on MLAs

AI cameras installed to record arrival, exit time of MLAs, duration of presence

Artificial Intelligence-enabled cameras with facial recognition technology have now been installed in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly that will record arrival and exit time of members, as well as the duration of their presence in the House.

KGF Congress MLA Roopakala Shashidhar was the first legislator to be recorded by the cameras on arrival at the Assembly for the monsoon session, which began today as the new system became operational.

The first MLA to be captured exiting was Tiptur's Shadakshari of Congress.

Speaker U T Khader noted that there is a practice of recognising MLAs who come early to the Assembly before the quorum bells are rung and their names are read out in appreciation by the Chair.

"Some senior legislators like Araga Jnanendra, Basangouda Patil Yatnal (of BJP) and some senior Ministers had made a request that some legislators, despite coming a bit late, sit through the proceedings till six or eight (PM), but no one takes note of it and it is an injustice," the Speaker said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaks during Assembly session at Vidhana Soudha on Monday

He added: "So, for the first time we have installed Artificial Intelligence cameras, which will take note of -- what time a member arrives and leaves, and for how long he or she was present in the Assembly. Information regarding this comes to the Assembly Secretary's system by the end of the day. There will be data."

According to officials, the initiative is part of the effort to improve attendance of legislators and their participation during the session.

Meanwhile, aimed at giving a facelift to the Vidhana Soudha, the seat of state legislature and secretariat here, gates at the west entrance of the Assembly hall has been renovated in the first phase, replacing iron grilled gates with a large and carved grand rosewood door.

It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today along with a plaque having the preamble of the constitution.

The Speaker said: "there is national and international respect for our Vidhana Soudha building. National and international level delegations and tourists come to Vidhana Soudha. It is our duty to make it look good and respectable from both inside and outside. This is the first phase, more work has to be done, I seek your (members) suggestions."

Siddaramaiah, Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and other legislators complimented the Speaker for the initiative. **PTI**

Assembly congratulates Rahul Dravid, Men in Blue

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Monday passed a resolution congratulating the Indian cricket team and former head coach Rahul Dravid for winning the T20 World Cup the West Indies last month.

India defeated South Africa by 7 runs in the final to end their ICC trophy drought of 11 years in what happened to be Dravid's last assignment with the national team as the head coach.

Assembly Speaker UT Khader read out the resolution congratulating Rahul Dravid and the Men in Blue for their achievement.

"The Indian cricket team, after a gap of 11 years, won an ICC trophy by winning the T20 World Cup. It is a matter of great pride for all of us that the Indian team achieved this feat under the guidance of Rahul Dravid, a proud son of Karnataka and a legendary figure in the cricket world known as 'The Wall'. **IANS**

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I, Manasa Shankar W/o V Rajagopalan, R/o No.52 R V Enclave, Block D202 1st floor 6th main Between 13&15 Cross Malleshwaram Bengaluru-560003, have changed my name to Manasa Shankar Udaya, vide affidavit dated: 12.07.2024 before notary KUNDAN BABU .M., Bengaluru.

I, Payal Dhareva W/o Manish Kumar Dharewa R/o No 691, K.G Main Road,B.H.E.L Layout Extension, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Payal Dharewa for all purposes

I, Mahesh Moogi S/o Channappa Moogi, R/o No: a 104 Purva Sunflower Apartment Magadi Main Road Ramachandrapuram Bengaluru 560023, Have Permanently changed my name from Mahesh Channappa Moogi to Mahesh Moogi,Vide Affidavit Dated 13/07/2024 Sworn Before Notary BA Lakshminarayana Rao, Bengaluru

I, VAISHALI LAHU MHATRE (Old Name) aged about 38 years, W/o. IBRAHIM BAIG R/at No. 617,2nd Floor, Sarita Reddy Apartment, Opp to Vishal Mega Mart, J P Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore- 560076 have changed my name to SANA BAIG (New Name) vide affidavit dated:13/7/2024 Before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed Bangalore

I Chandrashekhar S/o Nagappa R/o No 72/3 2nd Cross Simha Layout Subramanyapura Main Road Chikkalasandra Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Chandrashekar for all purposes.

I, Lokesha R/o 782,2nd Stage Extension,BHEL Layout, pattanagere, Rajarajeshwari nagar, B'luru-560098 have changed my name to Lokesh.

I, Gouri W/O, Rajesh Mahor R/o 474, 1st Floor, 4th Main, Thunga Block, Opp Delhi Public School, Bettada - sanapura, Bangalore -560100 have changed my name to Gouri Kumari for all purposes.

I, BHAT MITALI SACHIN, D/o Fayaz Shaik R/o Shri Chowdeshwar Nilaya, 2nd Floor 4th main Navya Layout near DLF Jigani Bengaluru, Karnataka-560105 . I have changed my name to SHIFA FAYAZ SHAIKH vide affidavit dated: 15/07/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, KHALEED PASHA S/o Syed Iqbal Pasha R/o No:- 440 7th Cross Sampomige Road Bangalore 560003 have changed my name to SYED KHALID PASHA for all purposes

I Fathima Thul Fida D/O, Syed Rizwan R/o #413 Mks Layout Narayan Nagar 1st Block have changed my name to Fida Fathima .

I, Sangeeta Reddy W/o Abhiram Parvathaneni R/o No.109/21, 10th main, 7th cross, Sadashivanagar, RMV Extn, Bengaluru 560080 have changed my name to Sangeetha Reddy Affidavit Dt.15/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, ATEEKH PASHA, S/o ALLAM SREENIVASULU R/o No 62/1 New No 4 B Block Ranoji Rao Road 1st cross Khazi Street Basavanagudi Bangalore-560004. I have changed my name to ATEEQ PASHA vide affidavit dated: 15/07/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, Sahana Sagar D/o Habeeb Shaik and Veena Shaik R/o No.34, 1st main, Santhrupthi nagar near, JP Nagar 7th phase, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Sahana Shaik Affidavit Dt.15/07/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Pusti Dhareva D/o Manish Kumar Dharewa R/o No 691, K.G Main Road, B.H.E.L layout Extension, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Pusti Dharewa for all purposes

I, Sayeda Inaam Khalid W/o Mohammed Ibrahim R/o No:- No 54/1 1 5th Cross Church Road Marappa Garden J C Nagar Bangalore 560006 have changed my name to Sayeda Inaam Ibrahim for all purposes

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'Traffic junctions have high emission levels'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to strengthen and improve the current monitoring mechanism, especially at hotspots.

While vehicular emission levels in the city have increased exponentially, decision-makers appear to be in denial. The city has gaps in monitoring and mitigation techniques," said a researcher.

Bengaluru has many hotspots such as C&D sites and traffic junctions that are currently not being monitored. However, those living in these hotspots are subjected to very high levels of pollutants. To manage these spots and to ensure timely interventions, the CAAQMS network should be expanded, say experts.

"Hotspots such as major traffic junctions have exponentially high levels of emission. Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) must look at expanding the monitoring station network to obtain the real picture of air pollution in Bengaluru. Moreover, citizens need to be made aware regarding their role in mitigating pollution," said the researcher.

The increase in the number of private vehicles on city roads was also highlighted by some environmentalists. They say the government should sketch policies that discourage ownership and use of private vehicles.

One way to achieve this is by prioritising the public transport system and by making it safer, economically more attractive, and easier to use.

Action against bike taxis illegal, claims association

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The association added that Additional Transport Commissioner, C Mallikarjuna asked all RTOs concerned to take action against bike taxis and ensure a crackdown on them.

As per the order, a specialised task force was formulated in 10 RTOs. RTO officials were tasked with carrying out the crackdown and submitting a report.

Regarding the curtailing of operations and seizing of vehicles, the association has highlighted the safety of bike taxi drivers. The association asked the Transport Commissioner to look into the urgent situation regarding the safety and fundamental rights of taxi riders in the state of Karnataka especially from Bengaluru and Mysuru. They highlighted that the action has violated HC orders that provided interim orders preventing coercive action against the bike riders. The association has asked the Transport Commissioner to take action against the violation of the HC orders.

Previously, the association had highlighted that if the Transport Department takes action against their bike taxi drivers, they would be filing for contempt of court against the individuals violating the orders.

Glitch break — Pop icon Taylor Swift, who recently performed her second Eras Tour show in Milan, experienced a minor glitch with her piano. The singer-songwriter treated her fans to two surprise mashups during the secret song segment of the concert, reports 'People' magazine

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A WOMAN'S JOURNEY

It is complex and nuanced, says Sanya about her upcoming film

Actress Sanya Malhotra is set to travel to Australia for the screening of her film 'Mrs', which explores the complex and nuanced journey of a woman trying to find her own voice, at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2024 (IFFM).

Speaking about the film's Australian premiere, Sanya said: "I am thrilled and honoured that 'Mrs' will have its Australian premiere at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. This film is incredibly special to me as it explores the complex and nuanced journey of a woman trying to find her own voice amid the expectations of society."

The actress will be joined by the film's director, Arati Kadav, for the premiere in Australia.

Sanya added: "Working with Arati Kadav and the entire team has been a profound experience. I believe the story will resonate with audiences everywhere, and I can't wait to share it with the viewers at IFFM."

The actress emphasised that the film festival has always been a significant platform for celebrating diverse narratives.

'Mrs' delves into the intricate life of a woman, portrayed by Sanya, who is a trained dancer and dance teacher. After her marriage, she faces the challenges of being a wife while striving to discover her own path and voice.

The film, which is the Hindi remake of the critically acclaimed Malayalam film 'The Great Indian Kitchen', traces her journey of self-expression amid societal expectations imposed on her marital life.

It also features Kanwaljit Singh and Nishant Dahiya. Sanya was previously feted with the Best Actress award for the film at the New York Indian Film Festival and has also been nominated for Best Actress at IFFM 2024. **—IANS**

Stop with the good news talk already!

Vicky Kaushal has been busy promoting his film 'Bad Newz' in the midst of attending the wedding festivities of the Ambanis. Katrina and Vicky made a joint public appearance after a while. Katrina has been largely away from the city and speculations have been floating for a while that she's pregnant. Her appearance in a red saree at the Ambani wedding further added fuel to these rumours.

However, during a promotional event, Vicky has now reacted to these pregnancy rumours. During the press conference, Vicky said, "As far has the good news is concerned (the couple being pregnant), we will be very happy to share it with you but for now, there is no truth to the speculations. Abhi Bad Newz enjoy kijiye, jab good news ayega to hum aapke saath zarur share karenge (Till then enjoy the film, Bad Newz and when we are ready with the good news, we will definitely share with you).

Meanwhile, it's Katrina Kaif's birthday on July 16. Vicky revealed his plans with her on the special day. The 'Masaan' actor said, "It's a special day, I will rush back to celebrate her birthday, so the idea is to spend quality time. We will just spend quality time together." **— ETimes**

Always diversify

After her debut in 2017 with 'Poster Boyz', national crush Triptii Dimri has mainly done films in the genre of drama. The actress, who will be seen in 'Bad Newz', minced no words in saying that she has since the beginning found comedy as a genre difficult and believes that, as an actor, it is important to keep diversifying roles.

"I have always done a lot of films in the drama genre, but I feel that as an actor, it is really important to keep doing different things and keep challenging yourself. I have found comedy a little difficult since the beginning," said Triptii during the press conference in the national capital. "So, in a way, it was really good for me," added the actress. The actress went on to thank director Anand Tiwari, who made his directorial debut with 'Love Per Square Foot' in 2018. "It was difficult, but it was a good learning experience. I think in life, I would want to do different roles such as action, drama, comedy, and everything that is offered," Triptii added. **—IANS**

Sharvari sets major fitness goals

Actress Sharvari, who is basking in the success of her films 'Munjya' and 'Maharaj', is setting major fitness goals.

On Monday, the actress took to her Instagram and dropped pictures of herself in action. In the pictures, she can be seen throwing punches, doing push-ups and training.

The actress urged her fans and people on the internet to never miss a Monday workout by belting out a series of images that shows off how ripped and in shape she is currently.

She wrote in the caption, "Never miss a Monday.
#MondayMotivation".

On the work front, the actress will be next seen in the much-awaited film 'Vedaa' which is directed by Nikkhil Advani. She also has Aditya Chopra's 'Alpha' in the pipeline in which she will share the screen with Bollywood star Alia Bhatt, 'Alpha' is being directed by Shiv Rawail of 'The Railway Men' fame.

'Alpha' is the first female-led film from the YRF spy-universe is titled 'Alpha'. The film's title was unveiled in a special video. The YRF spy-universe is created by producer Aditya Chopra, and includes blockbusters like 'Ek Tha Tiger', 'Tiger Zinda Hai', 'War', 'Pathaan' and 'Tiger 3'. The films lined up for the spy-universe include 'War 2' with Hrithik Roshan and NTR Jr in the lead, 'Pathaan 2', and 'Tiger vs Pathaan'. **—IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Different love story

Director Ram Prasanna Hunsur has been busy with the preparations for the release of his movie Kadaloora Kanmani, scheduled for release on July 19. Its trailer was released by Karnataka Film Chambers of Commerce vice president Venkatesh. Appreciating the trailer, he wished the team all the best. Arjun Nagarkar, who acted in Varna Patala, debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this film.

According to Hunsur, the movie belongs to the love genre but it is different. "I am very happy and proud to direct this movie. I will never forget the cooperation of the producers, hero, and heroine. We are contemplating a sequel to this movie," said the director.

Kola Shailesh R Poojari, who bankrolled the movie in association with Basavaraj Gachhi, said that he nurtured an ambition of acting in movies since childhood. "I could not act in movies as I, as an elder son of the family, have responsibilities. I did an MBA in advertising and am working at a bank. I have agreed to bankroll this movie along with my friend to encourage newcomers," said Poojari.

He thanked the director and the cast for completing the movie without any hassles. "I could not say no to investing money when the director narrated the script to me. It was very interesting and different," he said.

Movie for youth

A team of youngsters has geared up to make a Kannada movie, Maddy. A function was organised to release the title, banner, and hero introduction song at Kalavidara Sangha. Former minister HM Revanna, producer Umapathi Srinivasa Gowda, and Bharjari fame Chethan Kumar and others graced the function. A video of Dr Shivarajkumar releasing the movie's title poster was screened on the occasion.

Speaking after launching the logo of Sri Mahishmati Combines banner, Revanna said the hero's introduction song was very interesting. "There is a lot of difference between the latest choreography and the choreography from a few decades ago. Hard work and dedication of the hero is visible in the promotional song," said Revanna.

Producer Umpathy Srinivas Gowda said that he knew the hero and the team. "The promotional song is sung by lyricist Chethan Kumar who has the potential to become a sought-after singer," he said.

Director Nagabhushan said the regular shooting of the movie will begin next month. "I have been associated with Sandalwood for more than 15 years. It is my maiden movie as a director," he said.

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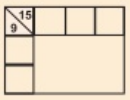
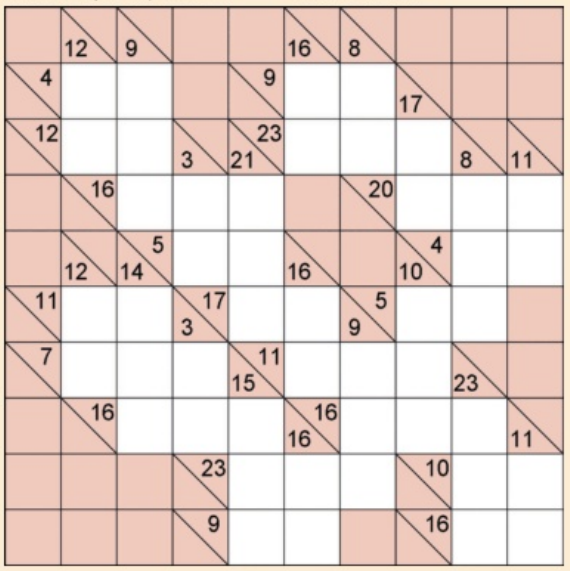
Kakuro

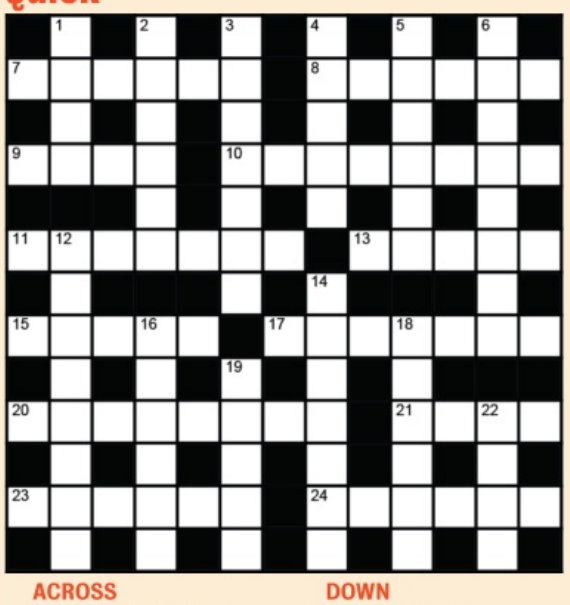
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Quentin Tarantino's ___ Unchained (6)
8 Donald, Melania, Eric & co? (6)
9 Operatic song (4)
10 Impediments or hindrances (8)
11 Acute intestinal infection (7)
13 A semiprecious stone–an opening for the cryptic minded? (5)
15 Tender (5)
17 Japanese warrior of yore (7)
20 Penetrating or pricking with a needle? (8)
21 Depend upon (4)
23 Hypnotic state (6)
24 Overcharge (3,3)

DOWN

1 Slightly open (4)
2 Involve by necessity (6)
3 Burglars (7)
4 Look hard at (5)
5 What a judge gives at the end of the case? (6)
6 Short amusing musical drama (8)
12 Our erstwhile PHL team (2-6)
14 Coarse brown sugar (7)
16 Going wrong (6)
18 Immature (6)
19 Largest internal organ (5)
22 Attic (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS U

IYJZ YP S ICX IYBZ DSNN... YX'P GZPX VKZM ACT YRUQCFYPZ.

Linemaro

If looks could kill, you would be a weapon of mass destruction

Mindchow

Aspiring to a small business that does what it does very well is a noble pursuit

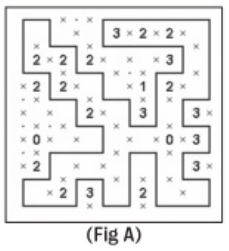
Joke of the day

Q: How do you make holy water?
A: Boil the hell out of it

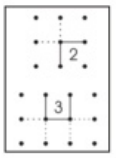
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

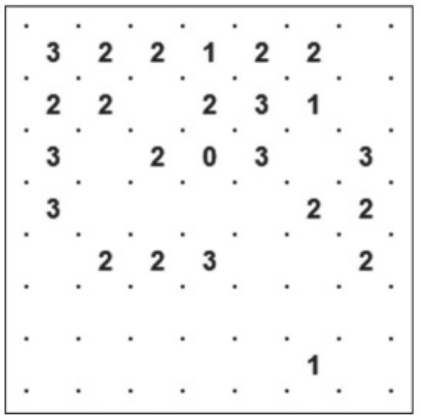


(Fig B) Not Allowed

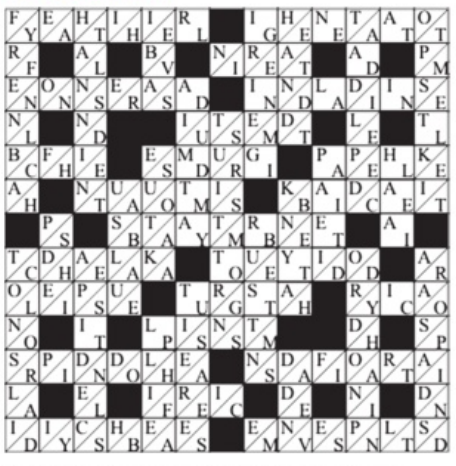
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8	D			
9				

ACROSS

1 R step; 6 Or poi; 7 Seen U; 8 Taped; 9 TY kit

DOWN

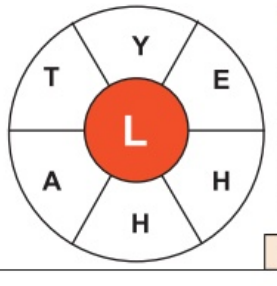
1 Spake; 2 Dot in; 3 Tores; 4 Up ret; 5 Type I

Mensapuzzle

On the right is a magic square where all rows, columns and diagonals add up to the same, using the numbers 1 through 25. Fill in the blank boxes

17		1	8	
23				16
	6			22
	12	19	21	
11		25		9

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; 09 Good; 11 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3	6	4		1		5
							7	6
1						4		
					1	7	5	8
		2	4		5	6		
6	8	5	9					
		4						9
8	7							
9		1		2	4	5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

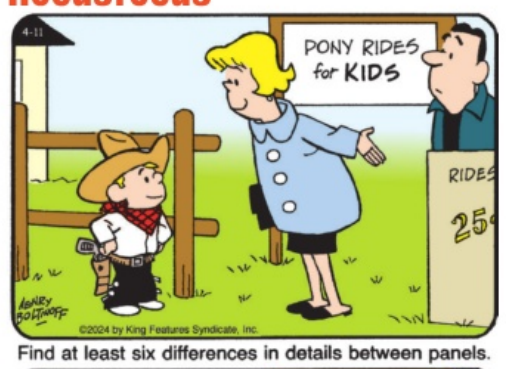
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 17
3 4 7 9

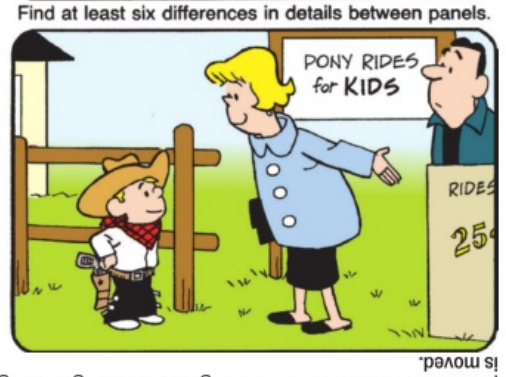
Medium = 33
3 4 5 8

Hard = 35
3 4 9 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



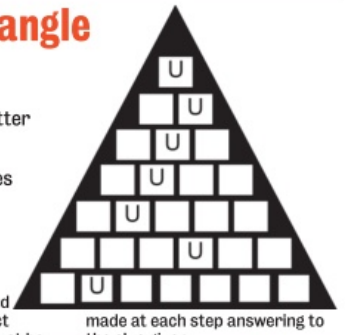
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Hat is different. 3. Fence post is lower. 4. Arm is not showing. 5. Skirt is longer. 6. Leg is moved.

Riddler

A Name Train is a puzzle where each name is connected together like box cars in a train. You are given the first car (the Engine) and the last car (the caboose), and you have to fill in the car or cars in between. Every two consecutive cars will form a name of a person or character. Joan [ ] Li. The answer is Joan Jet Li (Joan Jet–Female singer, Jet Li–Actor) Ready? OK here goes:
1. Matthew [ ] Mason; 2. Bruce [ ] Majors 3. Larry [ ] [ ] Fonda; 4. Ashley [ ] [ ] Mandela; 5. Rick [ ] [ ] [ ] Luther

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 Xi preceder
3 Cashew, for one
4 Smallest of the litter
5 Goes sour
6 Sixth planet
7 Sikh head-dresses

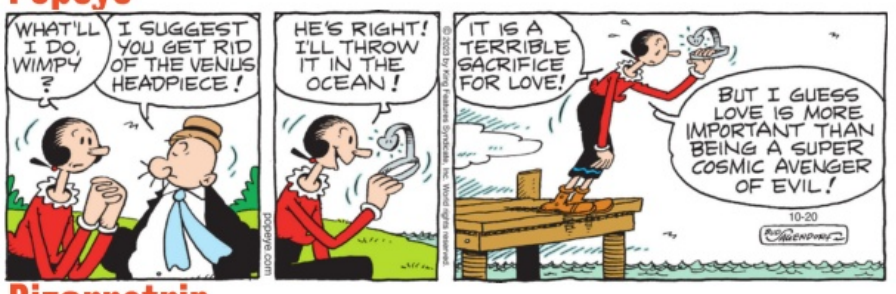


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

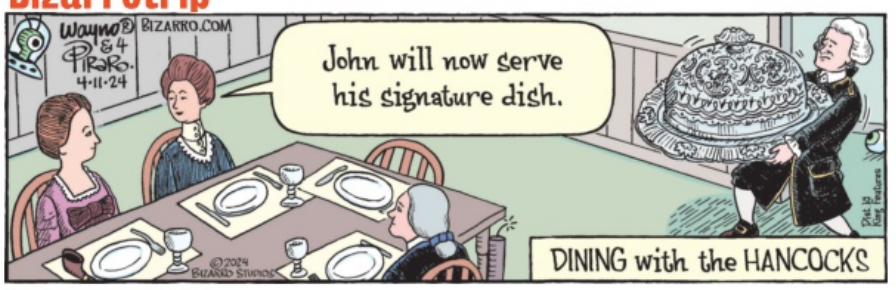
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WHAT'LL I DO, WIMPY ?
I SUGGEST YOU GET RID OF THE VENUS HEADPIECE !
HE'S RIGHT! I'LL THROW IT IN THE OCEAN !
IT IS A TERRIBLE SACRIFICE FOR LOVE!
BUT I GUESS LOVE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING A SUPER COSMIC AVENGER OF EVIL!
10-20

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft

WILL THIS BE ALL?
YEP, JUST THAT ONE SCREW.
20 SECONDS EARLIER.
I'VE BEEN COMING HERE TO SHOP FOR YEARS... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE CLOSING!
4-11
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day in terms of gains. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. You may plan to upgrade yourself by doing academics course. You may donate some amount to religious place or charity. You may also help a needy person. Students may do better.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may feel dull, you may have some health-related issues. Chronic disease may reappear. You are advised to avoid conflicts with the business partner. New investments in business or work are advised to postpone. With the blessings from elders, by the late evening things may be under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may be blessed by your destiny, your postponed projects may be started now, with the help of elder's blessings. Disputes between family members may likely to be resolved which may increase domestic harmony. Your creativity may be improved now into artefacts.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day, you are enthusiastic today. With the help of good focus you may perform well in business and work. You may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. There may be some visits to religious places. It is advised to avoid arrogance in your love life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by moon, your destiny is with you, your postponed projects are likely to be started now. You may have elder's blessings, which may help you to come out from the messy situation. Domestic harmony may make you happy after resolving some disputes between family members. Your creativity may be improved now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull. Overworking may tire mentally. You may try to ignore your responsibilities. Lack of patience may make you arrogant. It may affect your professional and personal life also. There may be some arguments with your spouse, you are advised to tackle the situation patiently.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Your destiny may be with you, time is favourable today. You may have ample opportunities. You may create new contacts. Your wisdom may help you to implement new creative plans in your work. There may be some plans in your mind to spend money on renovation, rebuilding your house or office. Your investments in fixed assets may pay you in terms of profits.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may dedicate your time to doing something creative. Your creativity and in-depth knowledge may help you to implement your plan. You may interact with new persons at your workplace. Job seekers may get new jobs. Students are advised to avoid speculation in their studies.

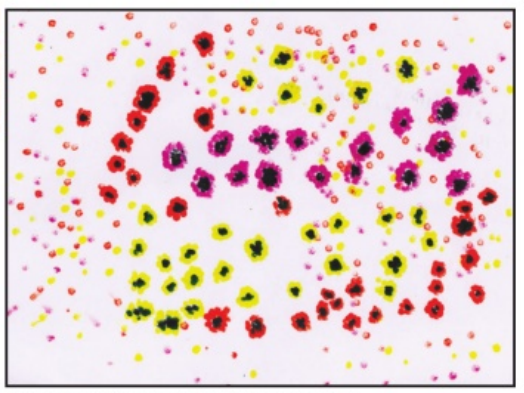
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel dull. You may feel some negative vibrations around you and your focus may not be good. You may not give your output in your work, which may lead to confusion. Investments related to business or buying new assets are advised to postpone. Natives, who are in the job, may plan for some short-term course or higher education to enhance their career.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are advised to avoid hurry. You should also drive safely. But with the blessing of the positive planets, you may come out from the problems. You may be more romantic in your personal life. Harmony in domestic life may come. Love birds may plan to get married soon. There may be some good news for students.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be courageous and may feel energetic, which may show in your way of working. You may have good focus towards your goals. You may likely go for a short travel, that may increase your network. You are advised to avoid harsh conversations with the spouse, it may create lack of harmony in domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may spend money for your family. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You are advised to read documents twice before signing. It is advised to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life. Dentists, motivational speakers, call-centre executives may do better.

KIDZONE



Raaga Akshath, 7 years, Deva Matha Central School

Kaveri Sriram, 9 years, Valistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=√(5-3 / 8)
=√2/8
=√1/4 = 1/2

RIDDLER
1. Matthew Perry Mason,
2. Bruce Lee Majors,
3. Larry King Henry Fonda,
4. Ashley Judd Nelson Mandela,
5. Rick James Dean Martin Luther

BULL'S EYE
ethyl, hale, hath, heal, health, HEALTHY, late, lath, lathe, tale, teal

FAST FIVE

S	T	R	E	P
P	O	O	R	I
E	N	S	U	E
A	D	E	P	T
K	I	T	T	Y

STRIKE OUT

D	I	S	H	E	S		E	V	E	N	T	S		
A		E		I	R	C		D		I		D		
R	A	V	I	R	A		A		M					
N		I		P	S	S	T		D		P			
O	I	S	E		U	R	S	A		R	C	A		
C	H	A	L	K		O	U	T	D	O		R		
H		P	B	A	Y	T	R	E	E		A			
	C	H	I		S	M	U	G		P	E	L	E	
	N		N		U	S	E	D		L		L		
E	N	N	E	A	D		I	N	L	I	N	E		
F	A	T	H	E	R		G	H	E	T	T	O		

QUICK

A		E		R		S		R		O				
D	J	A	N	G	O		T	R	U	M	P	S		
T	R	A	N	C	E		R	I	P	O	F	F		
P	I	E	R	C	I	N	G		R	E	L	E	V	
L		R		L		G		N				T		
O	F	F	E	R		S	A	M	U	R	A	I		
	I				S		J					T		
C	H	O	L	E	R	A		A	G	A	T	E		
		I			E				E		N			
A	R	I	A		B	A	R	R	I	E	R	S		
	A		T		B		A		L		E			
D	U	A	N	G	O		T	R	U	M	P	S		
S		G		R		Y		E		T				

MENSA PUZZLE

11	18	25	2	9
10	12	19	21	3
4	6	13	20	22
23	5	7	14	16
17	24	1	8	15

QUOTE UNCODE
Life is a lot like jazz... it's best when you improvise.

SUDOKU

9	3	1	8	2	4	5	6	7
8	7	6	1	5	9	3	2	4
5	2	4	7	3	6	8	1	9
6	8	5	9	7	3	2	4	1
7	1	2	4	8	5	6	9	3
3	4	9	2	6	1	7	5	8
1	6	7	5	9	8	4	3	2
4	5	8	3	1	2	9	7	6
2	9	3	6	4	7	1	8	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Nu, Nut, Runt, Turns, Saturn, Turbans.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 9 + 7 − 3 = 17
Medium
5 x 8 − 4 − 3 = 33
Hard
9 + 4 x 3 − 4 = 35

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 141 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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